A SPEACH DELIVERED, TO THE KINGS MOST *EXCELLENT* MAIESTIE IN THE NAME OF THE SHERIFFES *OF LONDON AND* MIDDLESEX.

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A SPEACH DELIVERED, TO THE KINGS MOST EXCELLENT MAIESTIE, AT HIS NEERE APPROACH TO LONDON, IN THE NAME OF THE SHERIFFS OF LONDON AND MIDDLESEX.

He common feares & difficulties which perplex moſt confident Orators, ſpeaking before Princes, would more confound my diſtruſtful ſpirit ſpeaking to your high Maieſtie (moſt mighty King & our dreade ſouereigne Lord) did I not know that the meſſage which I bring is to a good King

King alwayes gratefull. Curioſity of wit and and affected ſtraines of Oratory I leaue to thoſe, who more delight to tickle the Princes eare, then ſatisfie his deeper iudgement.

To me (moſt gracious Soueraigne) your Maieſties meaneſt ſubiect, vouchſafe your milde and Princely attention, whiles in the names of theſe graue Maieſtrates (your Maieſties faithfull Sheriffes of London and Middle SeX) I offer to your benigne grace that loyall and harty welcome, which from that Honorable and ancient Cittie (the heart of this kingdome) is brought by them, whoſe deepe and inward griefe, conceaued for the loſſe of our Peereleſſe and renouned Queene Elizabeth, is turned into exceſsiue ioy, for the approach of your excellent Maieſty, by whom the long and bleſſed peace of fiue and forty yeeres is made perpetuall. Great is that knowledgement we owe to the memory of our late Princes gouernement, whoſe far ſpread fame, as it ſhall liue recõmended to poſterity for euer, ſo of her flouriſhing raigne no other teſtimony neede be required, then that of your high Maieſtie (ſince none can be more honourable) that the like hath not beene read or heard of in our dayes, or ſince the raigne of great Auguſtus: So that, euen glorious and victorious Kings haue iuſt cauſe, to enuy the glory and virtue of a woman. But ſhe is gathered in peace to her fathers, a memorable inſtance of your Maieſties diuine obſeruation, that Princes differ not in ſtuffe, but in vſe from common men.

Out of the Aſhes of this Phenix wert thou King Iames

Iames *borne for our good, the bright ſtarre of the North, to which all true adamantine harts had long before turned themſelues. Whoſe fame (like a new Sunne ryſing) diſperſed thoſe cloudes of feare, which either our politicke friendes, or open enimies, or the vnnaturall factors for the fift* Monarchy, *had giuen vs ſome cauſe to apprehend: yea our nobility, Councellors, and Commons (whoſe wiſedome and fidellity is therefore renouned as farre as this Iland is ſpoken of) with a generall zeale poaſted to your Maieſties ſubiection: not more incited heere vnto by the right of your Maieſties diſcent & royall bloud, drawen to this faire inheritãce from the loynes of our ancient Kings; then enflamed with the fame of your Princely and eminent virtues, wherewith (as a rich Cabinet with precious iewels) your Kingly minde is furniſhed, if conſtant fame haue deliuered vs a true inuentory of your rare qualities. A King whoſe youth needes no excuſe, and whoſe affections are ſubdued to his reaſon: A King which not onely does iuſtice, (which euen Tyrants doe ſome times) but loues iuſtice; which habit none but vertuous Princes can put on. Who (immitating the free bounty of the King of Kings) inuites all diſtreſſed people to come vnto him, not permitting* Gehæzie *to take talents of ſiluer, nor change of garments.*

In ſome Princes (my Soueraigne Lord) it is inough that they be not euill, but from your Maieſty wee looke for an admirable goodneſſe and particular redreſſe, ſo ſtrange an expectation (forerunning your Maieſties comming) hath

inueſted the mindes, of good men with comfort, of bad with feare.

And ſee how bounteous heauen hath aſſined foure kingdomes, as proper ſubiects for your Maieſties foure Kingly vertues. Scotland *hath tried your prudence, in reducing thoſe things to order in the Church and Common-wealth, which the tumultuous times of your Maieſties infancie had there put out of ſquare.* Ireland *ſhall require your iuſtice, which the miſeries (I dare not ſay the pollicies) of ciuil wars haue there defaced.* France *ſhall prooue your fortitude, when neceſſary reaſon of ſtate ſhall bend your Maieſties Counſelles to that enterprize. But let* England *be the ſchoole, wherein your Maieſty will practize your temperance and moderation: for here flattery will eſſay to vndermine, or force your Maieſties ſtrongeſt conſtancie and integrity: baſe aſſentation the bane of virtuous Princes, which (like* Lazarus *dogs) licks euen the Princes ſoares, a vice made ſo familiar to this age by long vſe, that euen Pulpits are not free from that kinde of treaſon? A treaſon I may iuſtly call it moſt capitall, to poyſon the fountaine of wiſedome and iuſtice, whereat ſo many kingdomes muſt be refreſhed.*

Nor can I be iuſtly blamed, to lay open to a moſt skilfull and faithfull Phiſition our true griefes, nay it ſhall bee the comfort of mine age, to haue ſpoke the truth to my Lord the King, and with a hart as true to your Maieſtie as your owne, to make knowne to an vncorrupted King, the hopes and deſires of his beſt ſubiects.

Who

Who (as if your Maieſtie were ſent downe from Heauen to reduce the golden age) haue now aſſured themſelues, that this Iland (by ſtrange working and reuolution now vnited to your Maieſties obedience) ſhall neuer feare the miſchiefes and miſgouernments, which other countries and other times haue felt.

Oppreſſion ſhall not be here the badge of authoritie, nor inſolence the marke of greatneſſe. The people ſhall euery one ſit vnder his owne Oliue tree, and anoynt himſelfe with the fat thereof, his face not grinded with extorted ſutes, nor his marrow ſuckt with moſt odious and vniuſt Monopolies. Vnconcionable Lawiers, and greedie officers, ſhall no longer ſpinne out the poore mans cauſe in length to his vndoing, and the delay of iuſtice. No more ſhall bribes blinde the eyes of the wiſe, nor gold be reputed the common meaſure of mens worthineſſe: Adulterate gold, which can guild a rotten poſt, make Balam a Byſhoppe, and Iſachar as worthy of a iudiciall chaire as Solomon, where he may wickedly ſell that iuſtice, which he corruptly bought. The money changers and ſellers of Doues, (I meane thoſe which trafique the liuings of ſimple and religious paſtors) ſhall your Maieſtie whip out of the Temple and common wealth: For no more ſhall Church liuings be pared to the quicke, forcing ambicious Church-men (pertakers of this Sacriledge) to enter in at the window by ſimonie and corruption, which they muſt afterwards repaire with vſurie, and make vpp with pluralities.

The Ports and Hauens of theſe kingdomes which haue

long beene barrd, ſhall now open the mouthes of there riuers, and the armes of there ſeas, to the gentle amity and iuſt trafficke of all nations, waſhing away our reproach of vniuerſall pirats, and ſea-wolues, and deryuing (by the exchange of home-bred commodities with forraigne) into the vaines of this land, that wholeſome blood and well gotte treaſure, which ſhall ſtrengthen the ſinnews of your Maieſties kingdomes. The neglected (and almoſt worne out) nobility ſhall now (as bright Dyamonds and burning Carbunckles) adorne your Kingly Diadem. The too much contemned Clergy, ſhall hang as a precious earing at your Princly eare, your Maieſty ſtill lyſtning to their holy Councels. The wearied Commons ſhall be worne as a rich ring on your royall finger, which your Maieſty with a watchfull eye will ſtill gratiouſly looke vpon. For we haue now a King that will heare with his owne eares, ſee with his own eyes, and be euer iealous of any great truſt, which (being afterwardes become neceſſary) may be abuſed to an vnlymmitted power.

O my gracious Leige, let neuer any wrye Councels dyuert or puddle the fayre ſtreame of your naturall goodneſſe. Let wicked vſurpers ſeeke lewd arts, to mayntaine their lewd purchaſes: To your Maieſty (called to this Empyre by the conſent of God and men, and now King of ſo many faithfull harts) plaine and dyrect vertue is the ſafeſt pollicy, and loue to them, who haue ſhewne ſuch loyalty to you, is a wall of braſſe.

They meane to ſell the King to his ſubiects at their owne

price

price, and abuſe th'authority of his maieſty to their priuate gayne, & greatnes, who perſwade him, that to ſhut himſelfe vp from the acceſſe of his people, is the meanes to augment his ſtate.

Let me not ſeeme tedious to your Maieſty (my gracious Soueraigne) nor yet preſumptuous, for I counſell not. But whiles your Maieſty hath bin (perchance) wearied with the complaints and inſinuations of perticulars, for pryuate reſpects; let it be lawfull (my leige) for a hart free from feare or hope, to ſhew your Maieſtie the agues which keepe lowe this great body, whereof your Maieſty is the ſound-head.

Nor are we fed with hopes of redreſſe by immagination (as hungry men with a painted banquet) but by aſſurance of certaine knowledge, drawne out of the obſeruation of your Maieſties forepaſt actions, and ſome bookes now freſh in euery mans hands, beeing (to vſe your Maieſties owne wordes) the Viue ideas or repreſentations of the minde. Whoſe excellent wholeſome rules your Maieſty will neuer tranſgreſſe, hauing bound your Princely ſonne by ſuch heauy penalties, to obſerue them after you, nor dooth any wiſeman wiſh, or good man deſire, that your Maieſty ſhould followe other Counſellors or examples then your owne, by which your Maieſtye is ſoe neerelye bound.

To conclude therefore, what great cauſe haue we to welcome to the territories of our Cittie your moſt excellent Maieſtie, who (to make vs the glorious and happie head of this

Iland) haue by your fyrſt entrance brought vs th'addition of another kingdome, which warre could neuer ſubdue. So your Maieſties vpright gouernment, ſhall make vs partakers of that felicitie, which diuine Plato did onely apprehend but neuer ſee, (whoſe king is a Philoſopher a Philoſopher beeing our King) Receiue then (moſt gracious Soueraigne) that loyall welcome, which our Cittie ſendeth out to meete your Maieſtie; our Cittie which for the long tryall of her loyaltie, obedience, and faithfull readineſſe in all occaſions, your maieſties royall progenitors haue honoured with the title of their Chamber: whoſe faythfull Citizens, with true and well approued harts, humbly lay at your riyall feete their goods and liues, which they will ſacrifice for your maieſties ſeruice and defence, with longing eyes, deſiring to receiue your Maieſtie within their walles, whom they haue long ſince lodged in their harts: praying to heauē that your Maieſties perſon may be free frō practize, your ſoule ſafe from flaterie, your life extended to the poſſibilitie of nature: and that if not your naturall life, yet your royall line may haue one period with the world, your princely offpring ſitting vpon the throne of their fathers for euermore. And we your Maieſties faythfull ſeruants, humbly ſurrendring into your Maieſties hands that authority, which we holde from you, wiſhing from our harts that all plagues may purſue his poſterity, that but conſpires your Maiſties daunger.

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